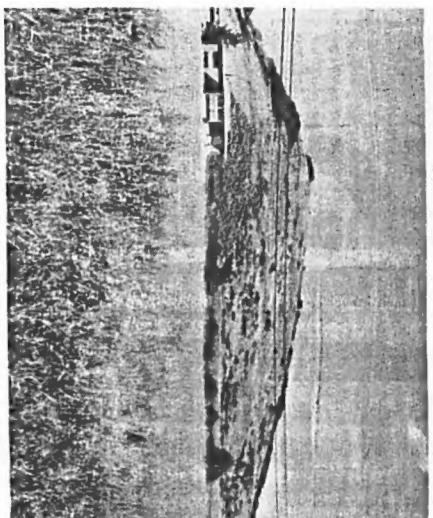


## History of The Memorial Hill and The Veteran Plaques



About ten years ago, the bronze plaques containing the names, were placed off the monument and stolen.

They were never found. Officers at the time judged that they were melted down and sold.

The hill was set aside as a

memorial in 1926. The monument was erected in 1928.

Names on the original plaques included veterans of the Civil War, Spanish American War, Indian Wars, and World War I.

Prominent figures making this project a reality were H. Clay Cummings and Summer Hatch, officers of the Lockhart Post of The American Legion.

D. A. Broadbent was instrumental in having legislation passed enabling counties in the state to levy local taxes for memorial purposes.

With these funds, Wasatch County was able to purchase the hill and surrounding land, most of it from Elijah Watkins.

Mr. Broadbent supervised construction of the spiral road that winds its way around the hill to the top and the monument. A beacon light at the top of the hill shines upon a large American flag.

Shaped like an Egyptian pyramid, Wasatch County's Memorial Hill stands in lonely grandeur, distinctly out of place among the mountains surrounding the valley.

The Egyptian pyramids were carefully erected as massive tombs to preserve mortal remains of kings and their prized possessions. The men whose names were engraved on a huge monument at the top of the mound overlooking the Heber Valley.

ture and contains a different type of treasure. It pays honor to the men who fought and the many who died in the service of their country. Its treasure is in the memory of

the men whose names were engraved on a huge monument at the top of the mound overlooking the Heber Valley.

The hill's first important role

came more than a century ago when William Van Wagoner and his brother, John Sr., built a lime kiln in the hillside. The lime was a vital building element. The kiln was dug back into the hill then sealed off to create a virtual oven and the lime rock was burned for three days and nights to take away the impurities and form a sticky lime powder. It cooled 48 hours before being removed. Lime was used in mortar, plaster, and white-washing.

Much of the lime was sold to the Ontario Mine Co., of Park City, at 50 cents a bushel delivered. The kiln was abandoned in 1922.

A monument to this early Midway industry was erected at the base of Memorial Hill in 1955 by the Daughters of Utah Pioneers.

Presently, there is a committee headed jointly by Daniel Ballstaedt and Dr. Raymond Green. They have collected the names that were originally on the plaques. Plans now are to update the Memorial Hill project by adding names of those who served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam Wars.

"This has been a discouraging job," Mr. Ballstaedt said. Especially

finding the names of those who served in the Vietnam War from Wasatch County. All records that were in Wasatch County have been sent to Salt Lake to The American Legion. Mr. Ballstaedt says he had made three trips to The American Legion in Salt Lake in an effort to obtain the names. He has also contacted the State Archives and the Veterans Administration. The committee solicited the help of Senator Hatch, but still no results.

National records do not separate according to states, and a file in St. Louis, MO destroyed a lot of records.

As soon as some of the lists are complete, they will be published in the hopes that the public will call in names that may be missing. The new plaques when made will be from a more reasonable type of

metal that will not be at risk of being stolen.

In 1976, a bicentennial grant of \$7,000 was received for improvements on the hill. This grant was secured through the efforts of Daniel Ballstaedt. A new brick facing was put on the crumbling monument. A group from a halfway house in Ogden provided the labor as a training project.

The brick did not hold up and another project in 1986 included refacing of the monument with porrock. This was done by Eugene K. Probst and sons.

Wasatch County hauled gravel and leveled the top of the hill making it more convenient for sunrise services, etc. Approximately 120 trees were planted a number of years ago and about 25 to 30 have survived.

